



## Raquette Lake Chapel Sunday Blast

February 28, 2021  
Second Sunday in Lent

### This Sunday's Scriptures (Revised Common Lectionary, RCL)

Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16; Psalm 22:22-30; Romans 4:13-25; and Mark 8:31-38 can be read from the Lectionary Calendar at <http://www.lectionarypage.net/> - this contains a calendar of all 2021 readings.

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### "Where the Rubber Meets the Road"

A career-minded colleague of mine, "Bill," was promoted and accepted a new job as director of an operations department, a big responsibility jump for him. When someone told Bill, "You're going to where the rubber meets the road," he replied, "I'm going where the rubber is **under** the road!" Faith meets reality.

### The Way of Christ

In a more dramatic way Jesus's words in today's Gospel stun us, and the disciples, and bring us face-to-face with the stark reality of Christian life:

*"Then he [Jesus] began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. He said all this quite openly." (Mark 8:31-32)*

Imagine we are members of Jesus's disciples who have witnessed Jesus's remarkable teaching and miraculous healings. We have come to believe in "the Way." But in blunt terms we hear **our savior** and **our lives** as Christ-followers will be filled with paradox...and danger...even death. Jesus has told us: *"We gain by losing. We are saved by dying to self. The first becomes last. The last, the despised, become first."* Reality will turn our faith upside down.

This is no happiness gospel, no "prosperity gospel." Jesus clearly said what he and his followers would endure "where the rubber meets the road." The way of Christ – the way of the cross - is not for those who are after worldly reputation and power. Leading a Christian life every day, and not just on Sunday, will bring us into conflict with our world.

We, like Jesus's disciples, will find ourselves as "rubber **on** and **under** the road" at times. But our faith in God endures, and we are strengthened by Jesus's promise: "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me...I am the way, the truth, and the life." (John 14:1,6) May it be so. AMEN.

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**Special Prayers:** for those who continue to suffer the aftereffects of the harsh winter; those who continue to suffer during the COVID pandemic; and finally, for peace and justice within our country.